

REPORT

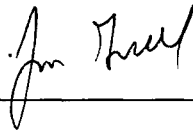
DATE: March 2, 2006

TO: Regional Council/Administration Committee

FROM: Hasan Ikhrata, Director of Planning and Policy

SUBJECT: Approval of foreign travel and funding for Shanghai Maglev trip

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

To approve sending a delegation of five elected officials and two staff members on a fact-finding trip to Shanghai, China from March 18 to March 23, 2006. And to approve funding for the trip based on one of the following options recommended by the Maglev Task Force.

- 1) SCAG delegates or their agencies will pay the airfare cost only, and travel expenses in Shanghai including hotels, meals, and incidental costs will be paid by the Shanghai Maglev Transportation Institute (SMTI). The SMTI will invite the SCAG delegation. **Estimated cost to SCAG: \$0**
- 2) SCAG General Funds support the airfare for the delegation, and the SMTI will support all expenses in Shanghai. **Estimated cost to SCAG: airfare: \$1500 per person for 7 person delegation = \$10,500**

BACKGROUND:

On July 7, 2005, the Administration Committee approved the recommendation of the Maglev Task Force to organize a fact-finding trip to Shanghai, China for a delegation of **15** elected officials and staff members from SCAG. However, the use of General Funds for this trip was not approved. Since then, staff has been exploring alternative funding sources for the trip.

A separate delegation, including Los Angeles City Council members, is currently being sponsored by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) for a similar trip to Shanghai, to take place on March 18, 2006. On February 9, 2006, staff recommended the following five options to the Maglev Task Force to send a delegation of **five** elected officials and two staff to join the LAWA delegation on a trip to Shanghai.

- **Option 1.** SCAG delegates or their agencies will pay the airfare cost only, and travel expenses in Shanghai including hotels, meals, and incidental costs will be paid by the Shanghai Maglev Transportation Institute (SMTI). The SMTI will invite the SCAG delegation.
- **Option 2.** A non-profit organization will sponsor the trip by providing only airfare expenses for the delegation, and the SMTI will sponsor all expenses in Shanghai.
- **Option 3.** A non-profit organization sponsors airfare and all expenses in Shanghai.
- **Option 4.** SCAG General Funds support the airfare for the delegation, and the SMTI will support all expenses in Shanghai.
- **Option 5.** SCAG General Funds support the airfare for the delegation, and all expenses in Shanghai.

The Maglev Task Force took action recommending Options 1 and 4 for consideration by the Administration Committee and the Regional Council.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

Sufficient funds are available in the General Fund to pay for any of the options selected by the Administration Committee and Regional Council.

